

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Claim 1 recites that the tubular member is welded to the other member over the entire circumference of the tubular member. In contrast, the weld line shown in Fig. 8 of Harwood (as mentioned at the top of page 3 of the Office Action) is an axial weld line. Accordingly, Harwood neither discloses nor even remotely suggests the invention defined by claim 1, so allowance of claims 1-4 is respectfully solicited.

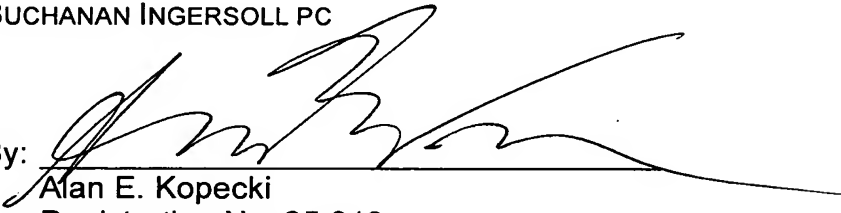
Furthermore, claim 2 specifies how the circumferential welding produces a deformation-canceling affect, thus further distinguishing over Harwood.

Allowance of the application is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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